

TRIBUTE TO TEMPLE ADAT  
ELOHIM

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedication of Temple Adat Elohim's new sanctuary and social hall. The people of this congregation have endured many sacrifices to make the construction of these new buildings possible. It is because of this congregation's overwhelming dedication to serving the Reformed Jewish community in the Conego that I am here today to extend my congratulations and express my gratitude for a job well done.

The history of the founding of Temple Adat Elohim begins in the spring of 1967. Several families tired of the long and laborious drive to Ventura to worship with Reformed congregation and attend Hebrew School. On August 22, 1967, 16 families formed the congregation at Temple Adat Elohim. Since that time, many more Conego families have joined the struggle to make the dream of a new sanctuary and social hall a reality.

By the early 1980's, the congregation had grown in size and the construction of a new sanctuary was no longer a desire, but a necessity. Instead, the congregation made a difficult decision and sacrificed their comfort for the safety of the children. They built the children a new school building. The new sanctuary would unfortunately have to wait.

Today, we come together to celebrate and honor those families who have endured both spiritually and financially for the benefit of Jewish people in the Conejo Valley. The new sanctuary and social hall accommodates more than 800 people and allows the congregation at Temple Adat Elohim to truly worship together.

This new sanctuary and social hall would not have been possible without the support and dedication of Temple Adat Elohim's Rabbi Alan Greenbaum and president Sandy Bistrow. I call upon this congregation and fellow members of our community to thank them for their efforts.

Theodor Herzl once said "If you will it, it is no dream." The construction of this new sanctuary would not have been possible without the strong will of their congregation. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in celebrating the dedication of Temple Adat Elohim's new sanctuary and honoring them for their hard work and sacrifice.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE  
ABANDONED AND DERELICT  
VESSEL REMOVAL ACT OF 1997

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 1997*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Act of 1997. This act will provide the necessary tools to clean up a long-term public nuisance resulting from abandoned boats and barges found in the navigable waters of many communities.

Dozens of abandoned boats and other debris have accumulated along the Guadalupe Channel, which surrounds the community of Alviso, CA. This concern was first brought to my attention by members of the San Jose City Council, the Alviso Master Plan Task Force, and members of the Alviso community. These abandoned vessels are a public health and safety hazard to the community and to users in the adjacent public waterways. Unfortunately, Alviso is not the only community that suffers from this problem.

Abandoned vessels do not just sit harmlessly by—these vessels are often used as an illegal dumping ground for hazardous materials. Between January 1988 and September 1991, the Federal Government spent \$5.2 million to remove 282 abandoned vessels that blocked waterways. In that same time, Government spent nearly \$5.7 million to clean up pollutants from just 96 abandoned vessels.

This legislation will establish clear authority to remove vessels left unattended in a public waterway for more than 45 days unless the waterway has been designated as a harbor or marina. Vessels left unattended in an approved harbor or marina for more than 60 days would also be subject to removal.

This legislation empowers local authorities to keep public waterways clear while allowing boat or barge owners the opportunity to repair and remove vessels that are not actually abandoned. In addition, the removal of these derelict vessels will alleviate some concerns regarding water quality and its impact on the public health of the local community.

This legislation will promote cooperation between interested local citizens, community groups, and government agencies in their joint efforts to preserve and protect the navigable waters of the United States. It will hold boat owners accountable for their vessels. Under this bill, a community can instigate action by petitioning a local elected official to notify the Secretary of the Army. Proceedings to notify the boat owner, and ultimately to remove the boat, would then be taken by the Secretary.

Many States and local governments are proposing solutions to the problem of abandoned and derelict vessels. This legislation will not supersede local initiatives with equal or greater cleanup impact.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE BRAGG FAMILY

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 1997*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, years ago, in a little place called Possum Trot, AL, an amazing mother named Margaret Marie Bundrum Bragg protected her three sons. She guarded them selflessly against an alcoholic father's drunken rage; she shielded them from the hunger and poverty that often accompanies rural life; and she gave each of them the values of compassion, sensitivity, and self-esteem. She taught them that where they were did not determine where they could go.

Her middle child, Rick Bragg, has proven her right. After only a semester of college, this native of Alabama's Third District went to work at the New York Times. In 1996, he won the

highest honor that can be bestowed on a journalist—the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing. Recently, Mr. Bragg wrote an autobiographical novel titled, "It's All Over But the Shoutin'", about his life growing up in rural Alabama. This book is already being praised by critics across the Nation and will likely become another jewel in Rick Bragg's literary crown.

And while I do not wish, and would never want, to take anything away from this great Alabama writer, it is his mother, Margaret Bragg, who I seek to exalt today. It has been said that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. I think anyone who knows of the Bragg family would agree. For it is these mothers and fathers, these unsung heroes behind our greatest leaders, poets, authors, and athletes, that should be commended. It is they who sacrifice for their children, teach their children, and love their children. And, in so doing, mold this country's future. If not for them and their influence, America would not be the proud and gifted nation she is today. And I think Rick Bragg would agree.

TWO SHINING EXAMPLES

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-GREEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 1997*

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Tatiana Naboa and Alexander Prince, two young citizens of the District of Columbia, who voluntarily offered their services to my office, through my colleague Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON's internship program.

They chose to turn a negative situation into a positive fulfilling experience for themselves as well as my Washington staff. They carried out all tasks assigned to them and were always ready to assist in any way they could.

Tatiana and Alex are products of the much-maligned D.C. school system. Obviously, there are some things wrong, but there are a lot of good things happening to our children when they attend the public schools in the District. From my experience with Tatiana and Alex, I know my colleagues who participated in the internship program, can support me when I say that the students were respectful, knowledgeable, and inquisitive. This can only come through the school's reinforcement of values instilled by their families.

As we go about the daily business of instituting laws for our fellow Americans, we must continue to provide opportunities for our younger Americans. We must give them a reason to accept the challenges they will face, make it meaningful, and guide them to become productive members of our society. Tatiana and Alex are shining examples of what is possible.

My staff join me in wishing these two outstanding D.C. students continued success in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 1997*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in support of legislation to attack